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Should candidates be forced to take an anti-drug urine test to get on the ballot?

Supreme Court will hear Libertarian's case on Tuesday

WASHINGTON, DC — The Supreme Court should overturn a law requiring political candidates to take urine tests for drugs — just like it struck down laws mandating anti-communist loyalty oaths a generation ago, the Libertarian Party said today.

“Drugs are to the 1990s what Communists were to the 1950s — an excuse for politicians to violate basic civil liberties,” said Libertarian Party National Director Perry Willis, shortly before one of the party’s members will stand before the high court to argue this case.

On Tuesday, January 14, Libertarian Party candidate Walker L. Chandler will represent himself before the Supreme Court in the case of *Chandler v. Miller*.

At stake: A one-of-a-kind 1990 Georgia law requiring all candidates for state office to submit a urine sample that tests negative for drugs before being allowed on the ballot.

Chandler collided with the law when he ran for lieutenant governor as a Libertarian Party candidate in 1994. Under protest, he took and passed the drug test, won more than 47,000 votes in the election, and filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the law — appealing all the way to the Supreme Court.

Attorneys for Georgia will argue that the state has a “compelling” need for drug-free politicians.

But that’s a foolish argument, countered Willis, who said the party stands 100% behind Chandler in the case.

“America has a compelling need for politicians who understand and enforce the Constitution,” he said. “What voters *don’t* need are the grandstanding politicians who passed this law — apparently in an effort to prove their allegiance to the destructive War on Drugs.”

Willis urged the justices to strike down the Georgia law, which he said would be a “tiny step towards sanity in a nation that is rapidly being stripped of its basic civil liberties.

“The Supreme Court should overturn this law, just as in 1974 it struck down laws requiring anti-communist loyalty oaths as a requirement to run for public office,” he said. “Following the anti-communist hysteria of the 1940s and 1950s, it took decades for Americans to regain many Constitutional protections. In the 1990s, our challenge is to not allow our liberties to erode *again*, this time in the name of anti-drug hysteria.”

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